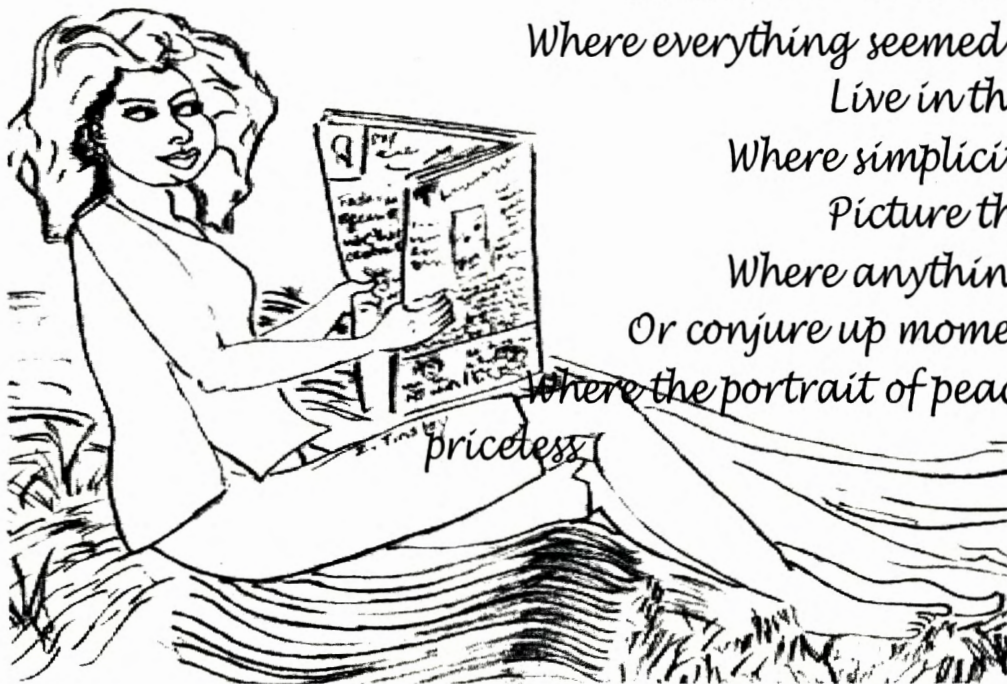


Femmes d' Esprit

A Time of Peace

*Peacefulness envelops our minds
As the season starts anew
Earthly fragrances turn rich
Aromas now sweet enough to eat*



*We'd rather dream of a past
Where everything seemed so simple
Live in the present
Where simplicity is desired
Picture the future
Where anything is possible
Or conjure up moments like this
Where the portrait of peace is*

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This issue's cover design was created by Zakiya Tinsley, class of 2002. With drawing as one of her favorite pasttimes, we at Femmes decided to bring her unknown talent to you. Immediately after graduation, she will be attending Hunter College, in pursuit of her Masters' Degree in Social Work.

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Note from the Editors

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who made this issue possible. We know that we have left you eagerly awaiting the printing of it, and believe us, we have been doing the same. Nevertheless, the issue is here for your enjoyment, so read, read, read!

Erica is a slightly new addition to the Femmes bunch, so everyone who supported her in her new ventures are extremely appreciated.

All in all, we wish everyone a happy and eventful summer, and although we wave a sad good-bye to our graduating seniors, we initiate an academically healthy hello to our incoming freshwomen.

Sincerely,

Heather Wilson
Erica D. Pitts

Searching for the Future with the Past

Richelle Fiore

Certain tasks asked of us seem impossible. The undertaking of the search for the new Honors Director appeared to qualify. How do you replace decades of excellence, and more importantly, should you even try? It is a delicate balance that must be struck between egos and intentions, a balance that is often hard to decipher. How do you balance a program's legacy with its potential future? These are questions that constantly nip at your consciousness as you are participating in a search. Personal criteria such as if you like the interviewing candidate are not as important as you would like them to be. Every choice must be examined through a much larger lens. You are not serving yourself-you're serving the institution.

When I accepted the position of Student Liaison and Coordinator for the Honors Director Search, my own uncertainties surfaced as I was confronted with opportunity. Each person who participated in the search would be leaving a mark on the program. The new Director will be with the program longer than any of the currently enrolled members. Therefore, what criteria do you set when making choices?

The decision of hiring is not an

individual's choice. Students, faculty, a search committee comprised of Dr. Lynn Petrullo, Acting Honors Director, Dr. Dan McCarthy, former Honors Director and active faculty member, and Dr. Anne Ferrari, professor who often teaches in Honors, the Dean of SAS, Vice-Presidents and the President all take part in the decision. Like many things in Honors, the decision as to who will be hired is a communal choice, carefully thought-out and implemented.



The Honors Program has a very distinct character for academic excellence, leadership, and creative learning. It is this way because of the vision of Dr. Ann Raia, who nurtured it from its inception through its maturity. I

kept the very nature and character of the Honors Program in the foreground of my mind as I and other students ate lunch with the candidates, asked questions, viewed and participated in their presentations of their past scholarly work-observing their teaching styles and interactions with both students and other faculty. The difficulty was in trying to find someone who would not imitate the past Director, but honor her vision with one of his/her own. I feel that we have.

We are running toward the future-proudly carrying the memories of the past with us.

The New Sarah

Sarah Bixler

My name is Sarah Bixler. I am a junior biology major at the College of New Rochelle. I want to be a pediatrician. I am from Atlanta. I am an honors student.

I know what you're thinking. Why is she introducing herself? We know who she is. Why does she act like we don't know her? I am not the same Sarah who left this campus last May. The person who returned to CNR in January is fundamentally different from that girl. I am Sarah. I have climbed the Eiffel Tower, gone to Italian mass at the Duomo in Florence, made wooden shoes in Holland, biked across Munich, and witnessed the British Parliament in action. I have seen gypsy children dance on the street begging for food. I have feared for my safety as anti-American protesters rallied in nearby parks, become lost in a foreign city at night, and been woken on a train in the middle of the night by police demanding my passport. I have been embraced by foreign communities when my homeland was attacked, been comforted by arms of many colors, and learned to understand and empathize in ways I had previously never understood.

Traveling changes you; there is no way around it. You are forced to step outside yourself and adapt to new environments. Every sense is stimulated. You see new things, taste new flavors, smell the distinct scent of each new city, hear foreign tongues tease your ears, and feel the air pass you by as you take it all in. Spending four months in London was the best thing to ever happen to my life. I was able to look at the

world from another view, this time on the other side of the ocean looking at America and our people from afar.

Europeans have a different mindset than we do here in the States. Their emphasis is on quality rather than quantity. They understand and esteem the value of family and of happiness in life. Europeans take time.

They take time off for vacation every year; in many countries upwards of three weeks a year is the guaranteed norm. They take time to sit down to a meal, recognizing the sacredness of gaining nourishment not only from the food, but also from those with whom you share yourself. The intense, money-focused consumerist society to which Americans have become desensitized is not nearly as dominating on the other side of the ocean. Europeans value their small communities, neighborhoods within vast cities.

Hours can be spent sitting at a café people-watching or reading a book. Stress levels are kept lower by understanding that there is more to life than the job you have and the car you drive.

Of course, I am making generalizations. I am creating an idyllic version of societies in which I am sure there are, in reality, portions of those money-hungry, corporate power driven people I have come to loathe in America. But by traveling I have seen that there is more to life than what exists in this country. America is an amazing place full of wonderful opportunities,



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Finding a Way to Reach My Dreams

Heather Wilson

As children, we are repeatedly asked by teachers, family and friends, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I was one of those kids who had a different answer every time. A teacher. A lawyer. A doctor. A veterinarian. A singer. An actress. A chef. A photographer. I aspired to be them all. Of course when I was five years old, I did not fully comprehend the aspects each job would potentially bring to my life.

As I grew older, I was still not really sure what occupation I wanted to strive for. In high school, I decided to sign up for a marine biologist class. I loved marine animals and I thought it would be a great way for me to help make the world better. I came to find the class was cancelled because of lack of interest. Just when I really thought I was getting somewhere with my "job search," I had to quickly pick another class.

It was then that I was thrown into a film class. I had always enjoyed watching movies, but I never looked at them as anything other than something to do on the weekends. I found out this class was going to be about analyzing movies, something I had never really done before and it sounded quite interesting.

Throughout the semester I found I was fascinated by these movies, particularly the way they were created. Learning how movies were put together and why certain shots were taken opened up a new career path I had never thought of. I now had a dream to become a film director.

I began taking more video courses in high school and I saw a transition of who I became when I picked up a camera. I longed to write scripts and make movies. For the first time in my life, I had realized what my true dream was. The next step was making it come true.

Time for college came. I chose The

College of New Rochelle based on hearing that the Communication Arts department offered numerous internships in New York City at places like MTV, NBC, CBS, Miramax Films, Arista Records...the list went on and on. Lights went off in my head and all I could think was, "I really have a great chance at reaching my dream!"

As my sophomore year is coming to an end, I find myself looking in two directions: the past and the future. In the past two years, I have learned a lot about theater and all of the different crew positions by being involved in Props & Paint. The Honors Program has challenged me with my academics and has given me the opportunity to hold leadership positions such as board representative and editor of *Femmes d'Esprit*. This semester I have also gained extra crew experience with the new student-run show "Off the Record."

The next two years will bring a few internships, which will be both exciting and nerve racking. New plays and new crew positions to hold. The challenge from the Honors Program will carry on through my academics. Continuing "Off the Record" with possible spin off programs. Maybe even writing and shooting my own short film. The possibilities are endless.

I have no idea what the future holds for me. There is no way to tell for sure, but all I know is I have one dream I am striving for. The only way my dream is going to come true is if I go out there and make it come true. No one is going to hold my hand and lead me in the right direction. It is up to me, and only me to find the way to reach my dream.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Kimberli Ringel-Kane

After the tragic demise of The Twin Towers on September 11th, a new problem emerges — what does New York City do with the devastated area? Do we learn our lesson and not build buildings so high? Do we create a memorial that remembers all those lives taken? Or do we show the world how strong we are as country and rebuild the two buildings that meant so much to us?

To many people, The Twin Towers represented more than just mere office space; they were a landmark of New York City's skyline, a financial emblem, magically built architecture. One hundred and ten stories apiece, built with steel, concrete and glass alone, The Towers held a place in everyone's heart and became a model for what America stands for: strong, independent, unbeatable. With the collapse and the destruction, where do we go from here?

This controversy of what to replace The Towers with has caught the eye of many people, including those who live across the entire country, those affected personally by the destruction, and those who are in the architect and engineering career field. Annette Adams, a licensed architect and project manager at DRBrasher Architects, Inc. in Columbia, MD, feels we should rebuild The Twin Towers downscaled so that it rises only fifty to sixty stories high. Adams has been practicing architecture for fifteen years; she has designed many buildings and knows nothing could have prevented the two towers from falling: "No building can ever be prepared for such a horrific plane crash, planned or accidental. Those two buildings were too high anyway, the newer version, half the size, will be more practical and work much better." When asked if she thought there should be a memorial, Adams commented that one does not need a

memorial in order to remember what happened. In just saying the date September 11th, Americans and people all over the world know the events and what occurred that day.

Heather Wilson, a sophomore in college fifteen miles north of NYC, also feels we should rebuild the towers at a lower height. Originally from a small town in Vermont, Wilson loves to take in the wonderful works of architecture in NYC. Although she was quite fond of the towers, Wilson feels it is not safe for people to work so high that they could not descend in an emergency. However, she would like to see a memorial for those who lost their lives on September 11th. She thinks that an exquisite wall placed in the lobby of the new building engraved with the names of those who were lost would work well as a memorial. When those who experienced this day first hand are gone, we want the history of what happened to linger on forevermore.

Contrary to these two perspectives, others argue that no buildings should be built to replace The Towers; instead we should construct a monument to remember this event as we did for Pearl Harbor, Oklahoma City, and Gettysburg. George Hopkins, a Maryland communication arts high school teacher and graphic design entrepreneur, states, "Very likely we will remember this tragedy in the recent time to come. But in fifty or one hundred years from now will we still remember what happened?" Hopkins believes that we learn from our history and past mistakes; when we stop remembering, we regress to a prior civilization and thinking.

Tony Rosenberger, a newspaper web editor for The Daily Journal in Baltimore MD, also states that there needs to be a memorial. He comments however that he agrees with Bryant Gumble's idea: create a monument that was the exact

Continued on p.9

Why I Joined the Honors Program

Samantha Turano

All of my life, I have always strived to do my best in every thing I did, especially when it came to my academic career. However, my best was never good enough and eventually I stopped trying. I figured if others couldn't accept my work, there was no point in me trying to please them by getting good grades. However, all of that changed when I turned eighteen and decided to further my education at The College of New Rochelle.

Once I began classes at CNR, my whole attitude began to change. I realized that people here really did care about my work and I felt as if my thoughts and opinions mattered. This is when I decided to change my ways and strive to get better grades, not only because of the inspiration gained at CNR, but I also had a goal: I have always dreamed of becoming a political newscaster, and I knew the only way I could make that dream come true was by working hard and getting the best education I could.

My first semester at CNR was a busy one. While I had friends that went out and partied, I declined invitations to go clubbing in favor of studying. People thought I was working too hard and that I was a bookworm, but I didn't care. I had a goal and the inspiration of other, and I was going to stop at nothing to make my dream a reality.

I knew my work had paid off when I received my first semester grades, earning a GPA of 3.72. I was very proud of my efforts, but decided I needed something more challenging to add to my academic career. I talked to my advisors, who suggested I apply for the schools honors program. After much deliberation, I

decided to go for it, not only because it would look good on a resume, but because I would be challenging myself as well. I knew that if I wanted to stay motivated, I would need to challenge myself so I wouldn't become too lazy.

Joining the honors program is the best thing I could have done. Not only has it opened my eyes to new ideas and experiences, but I have also gained the respect of others. I am glad I am a part of CNR's honors program and I hope to remain a part of it throughout my college career.



The New Sarah

Continued from p.5

diversity, tolerance, and optimism. I am proud to be an American, now more than ever. Yet through my travels, I have seen that there are other things, too. There are other people living by other paradigms that are just as, if not more, successful, positive, and rewarding. By experiencing these elements, I have been able to adapt them into my own life. Immersing oneself in a foreign culture expands the mind to its fullest extent. My sense of community and of understanding of people has been greatly enhanced by meeting students from all over the world. Stereotypes and preconceived notions have been thrown out the door. I have grown in ways unimaginable. I am a better person for having the experience of studying, living, and traveling abroad.

In speaking of travel in his book *Letters to My Son*, Kent Nurburn says "And I was never the same. I was flooded with emotions and sensations I could never have imagined. I came back a different person". This is how I feel. Take a moment to step outside yourself. Go for a walk. Contemplate the world around you. Take a minute to really understand the people you encounter every day. It's not the same as going across an ocean, but I'm willing to bet it will change you in much the same way.



Where Do We Go..

Continued from p.7

replica of the towers, yet have no offices in them. Those who felt the buildings were symbols of our values and what America believes in, feel we should replace The Twin Towers with the same. Others who focus more on the safety issue of the tall sky rises agree that the replacement buildings should be much lower to the ground. And finally those who think September 11th was a pure tragedy and should be remembered for all time think that a memorial is necessary. No matter how many disagreements Americans may have on what to replace The Towers with, the fact remains that those buildings were a representation of how strong this country is. We are solid, we are free, we are The United States of America!

R o l e

by Jenny Bullough

When you read the words "role model," it's often a man who comes to mind. But why should this be the case? We've all looked up to someone at one time or another in our lives or careers - whether they be our mothers, our sisters, our teachers, or our friends - and been inspired, guided, and encouraged by another woman's example.

The 20th century has been particularly rich with strong, take-charge, empowered females, any one of whose lives and achievements stand as a wonderful example for the rest of us to emulate and admire. With that in mind, the experts at eHarlequin.com have compiled the following list, in no particular order, of the Top 10 Female Role Models:

1. Eleanor Roosevelt

In many ways the ultimate First Lady, she was not content to simply be "the wife of the president." She made kindness and charity part of the national agenda, setting the definitive example for future First Ladies to follow.



2. Madonna

Whether you admire her in-your-face sexuality or wish she'd tone it down



a notch, we can all agree that the Material Girl is one driven, successful career woman who has made her way on her own terms, not on any man's coattails.

3. Amelia Earhart

A woman ahead of her time, this aviator didn't just push the envelope on what women could and couldn't do, she ripped right through it. Her tragic disappearance while attempting a trans-Atlantic flight has turned her legacy into legend.



Amelia Earhart

4. Marie Curie

Part of science's most famous husband-and-wife team, Dr. Curie continued her own work, along with that of her husband, following his death, earning her own place in the pantheon of



the world's greatest scientific minds.

5. Rosa Parks

Some women stand up for what they



..... Models

believe in; Mrs. Parks sat down. She wouldn't give up her seat on the bus to a white man, and by refusing to budge in the face of oppression, racism, and prejudice, she inspired countless others to speak out and demonstrate in favor of civil rights.

6. Nora Roberts

An inspiration for countless aspiring romance writers, publishing phenomenon Roberts has been a New York Times best-selling author many times over, and was the first author inducted into the Romance Writers of America Hall of Fame.



7. Oprah Winfrey

This Queen of All Media began her life in poverty, and struggled through adversity to become an incredibly successful businesswoman. Oprah epitomizes inspiration, challenging women to do and be their best every day.



8. Princess Diana

The first royal to truly have the common touch, Princess Diana overcame her natural shyness and embraced the public that adored her, and in the process dragged the reclusive British royal family kicking and screaming into the 20th century.



9. Mother Teresa

The embodiment of unselfish charity, this icon of goodness devoted her entire life to nursing the sick and giving a helping hand to the outcasts of society, those whom others shunned and refused to touch.



10. Anne Frank

Although her life was cut tragically short, her diary lives on as a testament to the strength and courage of the human heart. Her own words capture her spirit best: "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."



